

P-19 THE CHRISTMAS TREE STREET, SANTA ROSA AVENUE, ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA



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THE STREET OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

During the last week of each year, thousands of persons journey from all parts of Southern California to view the impressive spectacle provided by the illumination of Altadena's mile-long avenue of deodars, popularly known as "The Street of the Christmas Trees".

The trees are majestic Himalayan cedars grown from seed brought from the slopes of the Himalaya mountains in India, where the deodar is famed in song and story, its name signifying "Tree of God".

There are about two hundred trees that were planted in 1885. For almost a mile they rear their proud heads on both sides of Santa Rosa Avenue in Altadena, a beautiful residential suburb immediately adjoining Pasadena, at the base of the lofty Sierra Madres, overlooking city and valley. This was once the main driveway on the 900 acre ranch of Col. F. J. Woodbury, a pioneer resident.

Beautiful enough at any time, the deodars take on their greatest grandeur between Christmas eve and New Year's night when they glow with the brilliance of the thousands of colored electric lights.

The custom of lighting these trees was started in 1920 and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Pasadena and has been carried out each year since.

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